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PATENT

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OFFICIAL

INVENTOR: N. Brandon et al.)
SERIAL NO.: 09/881,820)
FILING DATE: June 15, 2001)
FOR: Method for Designing)
a Knowledge Portal)

EXAMINER: Hirl, J.P.
ART UNIT: 2121
DATE:

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 131 OF MICHAEL A LIMANNI

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I, Michael A Limanni, do hereby declare as follows:

1. I am an employee of International Business Machines Corporation ("IBM"), the assignee of the above-identified patent application entitled "Method for Designing a Knowledge Portal." I am a co-inventor of the invention described and claimed in the above-identified application.

2. This is a declaration under the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.131 for the purpose of swearing back of a reference which was cited in the subject application. This declaration establishes facts showing conception of this invention in this country prior to the April 26, 2001 filing date of Shetty U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0084011 A1

cited against this application, and due diligence from a time prior to that date until the application was filed.

3. The claimed invention in the above-identified application was conceived by me and my named co-inventors in the United States prior to April 26, 2001. This is evidenced by the appended copy of a portion of an invention disclosure form created by me on behalf of all of the named co-inventors describing the invention disclosed in the subject patent application (the "Disclosure").

4. The Disclosure was created, and is dated, prior to April 26, 2001, the filing date of the Shetty patent publication. Actual dates and the material not pertinent to conception of the invention have been redacted in view of their confidential nature.

5. The invention claimed in the subject application is directed to a method for designing a knowledge portal for retrieving, organizing and delivering knowledge to a user belonging to an organization. The following chart compares the steps of the claimed method with the teachings in the Disclosure:

CLAIM 1

A method for designing a knowledge portal for retrieving, organizing and delivering knowledge to a user belonging to an organization, the method comprising

identifying a community of users belonging to the organization characterized by a common interest with respect to the knowledge;

identifying business processes executed by the users in said community in accordance with strategies of the organization;

DISCLOSURE

"[A] 'knowledge portal' is a web-based tool which provides information delivery capability individual knowledge workers who need access to a broad spectrum of knowledge. It retrieves and indexes data or content from multiple knowledge sources and delivers that content to the user organized in a way that is highly relevant and intuitive." Disclosure, page 2.

"The diagram below describes how our method guides the design process by exploiting the natural clustering of an organization's knowledge workers into communities while also maintaining the alignment among the organization's business strategies, its communities, its processes, and the content and organization of the portal." Disclosure, pages 2-3.

"The specific communities* ... to be supported by the portal are identified, based on the organization's business and knowledge strategies and priorities." Disclosure, page 3.

"* Community, as used here, means a group of users (employees or others) who share: A common base of knowledge, tools, and processes[.] A common way of conceptualizing or organizing that knowledge[.] A set of peers with whom they typically network or collaborate." Disclosure, page 3.

"The specific ... business practices to be supported by the portal are identified, based on the organization's business and knowledge strategies and priorities." Disclosure, page 3.

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analyzing the business processes to identify specific activities performed in executing said processes and patterns for performing the respective activities; and

"The identified business process (or processes) is decomposed into subprocesses and/or specific activities performed in order to execute the process." Disclosure, page 3.

"Usage scenarios are then developed to understand how the portal might be used to support each specific activity." Disclosure, page 3.

"The collection of usage scenarios is examined for recurring patterns." Disclosure, page 3.

constructing the knowledge portal in accordance with said patterns.

"Understanding the form of the user's specific requests helps identify the most-intuitive way to organize the knowledge and tools within the portal." Disclosure, page 3.

6. The Disclosure was submitted to the attorneys for IBM prior to April 26, 2001.

7. On May 10, 2001, I was informed by Jay Anderson, the IBM attorney responsible for the subject patent application, that the subject application would be prepared by outside counsel.

8. On May 23, 2001, I discussed the Disclosure and other details of the claimed invention in a telephone conference with Peter Peterson of DeLio & Peterson LLC, New Haven, Connecticut, the outside counsel who was responsible for preparing the application.

9. On Wednesday, May 30, 2001, I received a draft of the patent application for the claimed invention by email from Atty. Peterson. Two days later, Friday, June 1, 2001, I emailed proposed revisions to Atty. Peterson.

10. On Monday, June 4, 2001, I emailed to Mr. Peterson comments on the draft application made by my co-Inventor, Eric Klein.

11. On Tuesday, June 5, 2001, I emailed to Atty. Peterson additional revisions to the draft patent application. On that same day, I also had an e-meeting via the Internet with some of my co-inventors to review the draft application.

12. On Wednesday, June 6, 2001, I had a telephone conference with Atty. Jay Anderson to review the claims of the application. On that same day, I emailed to Atty. Peterson further revisions to the draft patent application.

13. On Tuesday, June 12, 2001, I received an email from Atty. Peterson suggesting that we talk by telephone on Thursday, June 14, 2001 about the revisions to the draft application. The next day, June 13, 2001, I emailed to Atty. Peterson what I referred to as "my final draft of the document," i.e., the patent application. I also faxed to him a revision to the drawings on that same day.

14. On June 14, 2001, I spoke by telephone with Atty. Peterson and Atty. Anderson regarding further revisions to the draft patent application. On that same day, I also received by email a revised draft of the patent application, and reviewed same.

15. I declare further that all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under §1001 of the Title XVIII of the United

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States Code and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.


Name: Michael A. Limanni

7-23-2004
Date

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop _____, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____
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